

FISCAL NOTE

Bill #: SB0060

Title: Allow District Courts to appoint standing masters

Primary

Sponsor: Mike Halligan

Status: Second reading/revised

Sponsor signature	Date	Dave Lewis, Budget Director	Date
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Fiscal Summary

	<u>FY2000 Difference</u>	<u>FY2001 Difference</u>
Expenditures:		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Revenue:	\$0	\$0
Net Impact on General Fund Balance:	\$0	\$0

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
X		Significant Local Gov. Impact	X		Technical Concerns
	X	Included in the Executive Budget		X	Significant Long-Term Impacts

Fiscal Analysis

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Compensation that would be paid to a standing master will differ from district to district.
2. The county will pay all expenses incurred by the standing master.
3. Of the 37 district court judges, 11 do not have law clerks. These 11 districts will hire law clerks to reduce their caseloads before considering hiring standing masters.
4. Of the remaining 28 districts, 13 districts may hire standing masters.
5. Entry level salary may range from \$30,000 - \$35,000 each year plus 25% benefits. This is 40% to 47% of a judge's salary.
6. Computer, printer, recorder, and network access expenses will cost \$5,295 initially for each position and \$1,320 for the second and future years.
7. There will be only one standing master per judge.

(continued)

8. A judge will communicate with county commissioners regarding budget and decisions before hiring a standing master.

FISCAL IMPACT:

	<u>FY2000 Difference</u>	<u>FY2001 Difference</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Funding:</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Revenues:</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Net Impact to Fund Balance (Revenue minus Expenditure):</u>	\$0	\$0

EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUES OR EXPENDITURES:

Cost to some counties may increase in future years, as the district court judge workloads increase and there is a need for a standing master position. However, the position could have a positive long-range impact on the number of cases settled in an expeditious manner, fewer jury trials, and current dockets maintained.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

1. Section 5 would supersede the unfunded mandate law. Current law cannot be superseded by a proposed law.